



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

August 21, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Review of the Department of the Navy's Uniformed Legal Communities

References: (a) 10 U.S.C. 8046  
(b) 10 U.S.C. 8088  
(c) SECNAVINST 5430.7R CH-1  
(d) SECNAVINST 5430.27E  
(e) CNO ltr of 1 Aug 2019

In accordance with my authority and oversight responsibilities under references (a), (b) and (c), and consistent with the responsibilities of the Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) and the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (SJA to CMC) as set forth in reference (d), you are each directed to conduct a comprehensive review of your respective military legal communities. The advice and services provided by the Navy JAG and Marine Corps SJA organizations are essential to the Department's ability to provide ready and capable forces and conduct effective combat operations. As such, a periodic review of the readiness of the JAG and SJA legal communities is essential to ensure overall warfighting readiness. These reviews are intended to ensure the Navy JAG and the Marine Corps SJA legal communities are organized, manned, trained, and equipped to support the Department's mission.

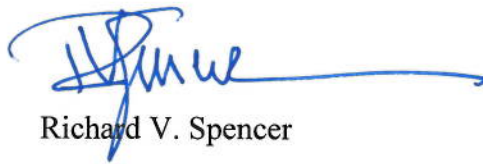
The conclusions and recommendations of these reviews will be consolidated into one report with two sections, one each for the Navy and Marine Corps. I have appointed a group of experts to an Executive Review Panel. You are directed to establish a working group to support the Executive Panel in the execution of these reviews.

I expect these reviews to provide detailed recommendations with respect to revising any relevant statutory and regulatory authorities, policies, resourcing, and any corrective actions necessary. The scope of this comprehensive review includes: legal community training and professional development; organization and command relationships including oversight; efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of legal services; sufficiency of staffing levels; and evaluation of career progression. This will include any potential effect of the Military Justice Act of 2016, which began implementation in January 2019. The reviews may expand to encompass any matter deemed appropriate that is directly related to the organization, leadership oversight, and performance of the Navy and Marine Corps legal communities. However, the reviews shall not review or make recommendations regarding substantive matters of military law including the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In conducting the review, you should seek input and insights from other services and government agencies, industry, and highly qualified experts outside the government to the extent necessary to ensure the widest possible perspective.

Additionally, reference (e) highlights the existence of prior Navy Judge Advocate General tasking by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The Navy review should consider the work the Navy JAG is doing as a result of CNO's prior tasking, but should not duplicate or replace that effort. The Marine Corps review should consider the Center for Naval Analysis efforts to analyze the Marine Corps legal community, but not duplicate or replace that effort.

The plan, methodology, and focus areas for how the Navy and Marine Corps will conduct their respective assessments are due to me for review within 15 days of this memo.

The results of these reviews will be provided to me via the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps within 90 days, unless an extension is requested and granted. The comprehensive review will have the full support of the entire Navy and Marine Corps leadership teams.



Richard V. Spencer

cc:

General Counsel of the Navy

Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps